Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

12 October 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 10, 2006

Conditions Report

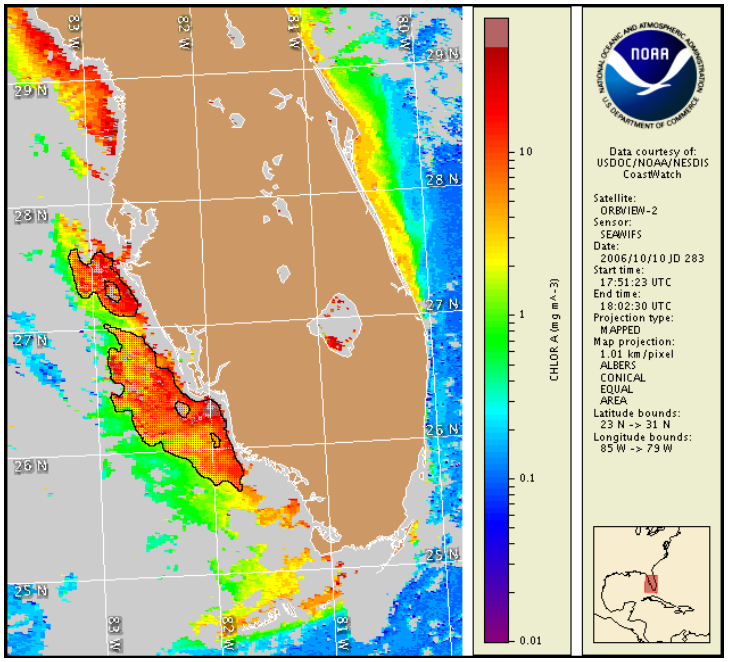
A harmful algal bloom has been identified alongshore from Pinellas to central Collier County. Patchy moderate impacts are possible from Manatee to central Collier County today through Friday, with patchy high impacts possible in southern Charlotte County, patchy low impacts possible in southern Pinellas County, and patchy very low impacts possible in northern Pinellas County through Friday. Saturday through Monday patchy very low impacts are possible from southern Pinellas to central Collier County, with patchy low impacts possible in southern Charlotte County and higher impacts possible in the southern Sanibel Island region. No impacts are expected in northern Pinellas County Saturday through Monday.

Analysis

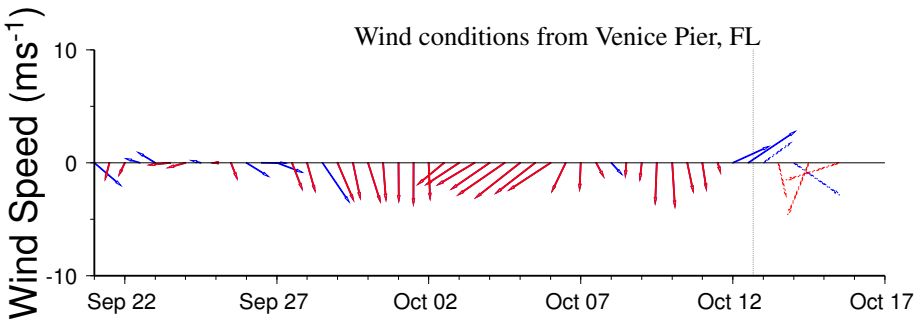
A harmful algal bloom remains present alongshore SW Florida from Pinellas to Collier County and offshore to northern Monroe County. Sampling reports over the past 10 days indicate stable *K. brevis* concentrations throughout much of Charlotte County, with a decrease in concentrations in the Gasparilla and Pine Island Sound region (FWRI, 10/9); however, chlorophyll levels continue to be elevated up to 25μg/L (26°50.1'N 82°31.4'W, 26°38.9'N 82°23.5'W) in patches offshore. In Collier County, concentrations have increased at Goodland (low) and in the Marco Island region (medium); however concentrations in the northern portion of the county have remained stable (FWRI, 10/9). Chlorophyll levels continue to be patchy in this region as well and are currently elevated (10-20μg/L) in a band 6-8miles offshore (26°15.9'N 81°57.3'W to 25°48.5'N 81°44.3'W). This band appears slightly closer to shore over the past two days according to satellite imagery. Although recent satellite imagery is partially obscured, chlorophyll levels remain elevated (10-30μg/L) in offshore patches from southern Pinellas to Sarasota County (27°42.5'N 82°55.8'W to 27°2.8'N 82°33.2'W, west to 27°22.6'N 83°4.7'W).

Portions of the bloom have likely expanded slightly further south (up to 17km) and intensified onshore over the past few days. Onshore winds will increase the potential for impacts at the coast today and Friday, with lesser impacts expected over the weekend. Continued southerly expansion is possible through Saturday.

~Fisher, Urizar

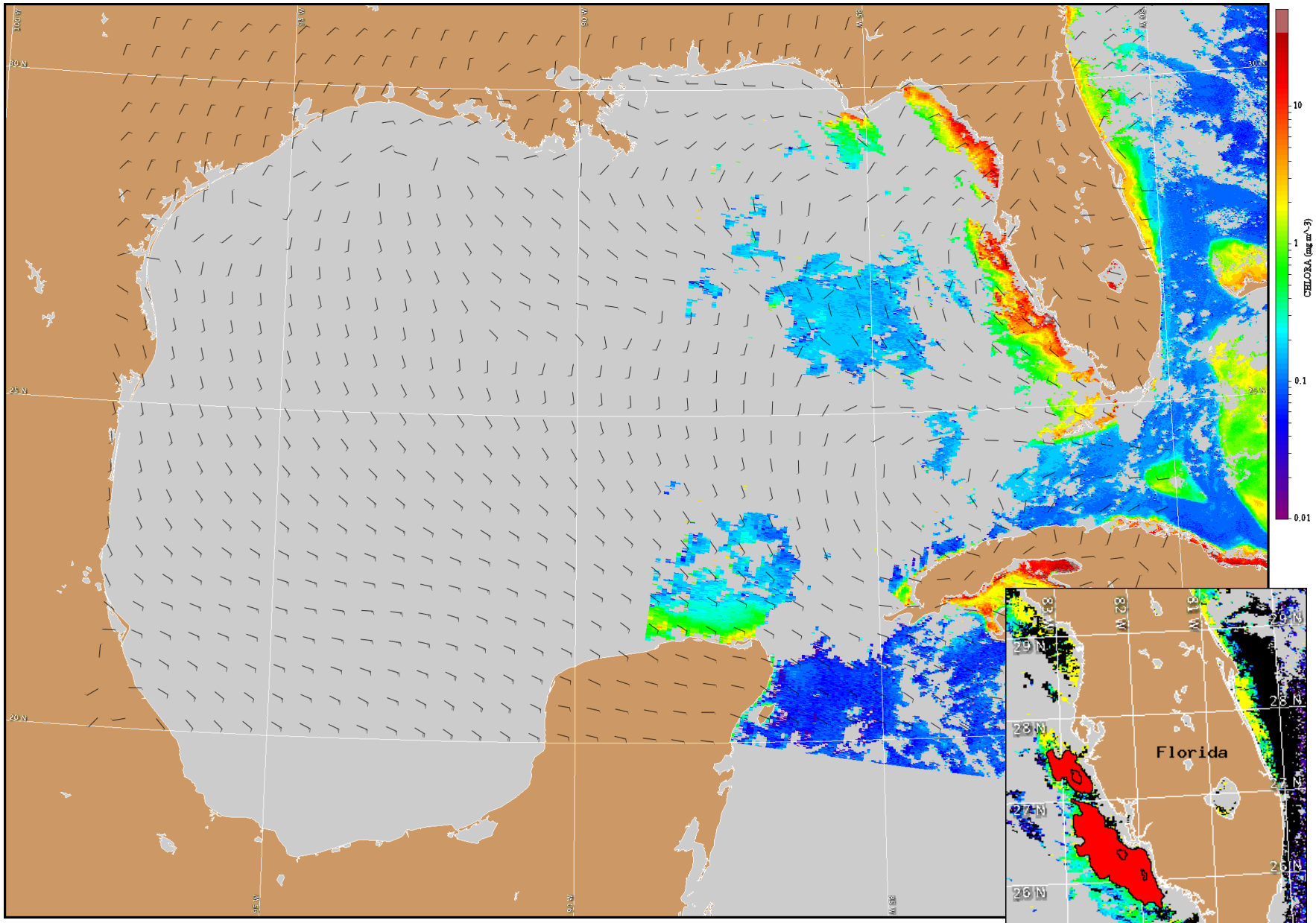


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration categories and corresponding cell count values from Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit http://research.myfwc.com.



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

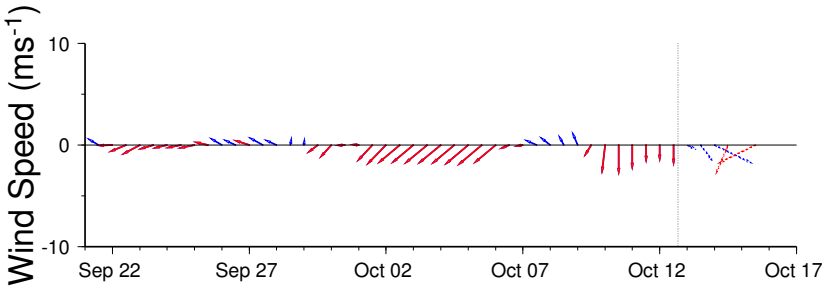
SW Florida: Moderate (10-15kts; 5-8m/s) westerly winds today are expected to shift northwesterly Friday at 10kts (5m/s). Northeasterlies (15 kts, 8m/s) on Saturday will shift to southeasterlies Sunday and Monday, strengthening to 15-20kts (8-10m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 13, 2006 12Z.

Verifi ed HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Naples, FL



Wind conditions from Clearwater Beach, FL